

JUSTIFICATION:

CLOTHED IN HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS



“I will rejoice greatly in the LORD, my soul will exult in my God; for He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness...”

– Isaiah 61:10a (*NASB'95*)

VALLEY GRACE BRETHREN CHURCH OF ARMAGH, PA
SEPTEMBER 1ST, AD 2024

THE LORD'S DAY

The First Day of September, *in the Year of our Lord* 2024

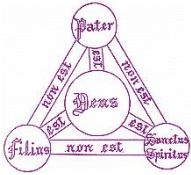


- ONE IS YOUR MASTER AND ALL YE ARE BRETHREN -



Welcome to the worship services of Valley Grace Brethren Church!

Sunday School—9:30 AM.



We continue our exciting and illuminating studies in Church History, looking at historic debates over the Triune nature of God. Please continue to pray for the success of our Sunday School program.

Morning Worship—10:30 AM.

Call to Worship:* *"In Times Like These"* (#328; v. I; NO Chorus)

Invocation.*

Hymn: *"Blessed be the Name"* (#22).

Prayer for Tithes & Offerings.

Scripture Reading: Romans 4:1-8.

Prayer, Praises, & Testimony.

Hymn: *"Grace Greater Than our Sin"* (#38).

Announcements.

Hymn: *"Rock of Ages"* (#332).

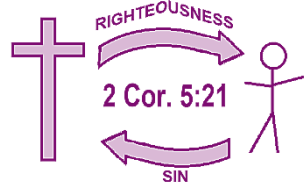
Dismissal for Children's Church.

Greeting One Another.

Message: *"JUSTIFICATION: DECLARED RIGHTEOUS."*

Closing Hymn:* *"Like a River Glorious Peace Like a River"* (#47).

Benediction.*



*Please stand, if able.

MIDWEEK PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY: WED., 6:30 PM

Cover art: "NEW CLOTHS," by Pastor Terry L. Reese



Week of Aug. 25 – Sept. 1

Sunday School—6; Morning Worship—I6;

Midweek—6; Video: “*By Faith*”—87 views

Offering: \$329.00 (8/18/24); 408.00 (8/25/24)

THE THREE KEY IMPUTATIONS OF SCRIPTURE

Pastor Terry L. Reese, Valley GBC of Armagh, PA; 9/01/24

“**Imputed**” is a key Bible word (Gk., *logizomai*) that has a background associated with the realm of numerical calculation, finances, and accounting. It is variously translated “*reckoned*,” “*counted*,” or “*credited*.” Basically, when something is “imputed” unto an individual, it is *reckoned* or *credited* unto that person’s account. This is strikingly illustrated in Paul’s epistle to Philemon, in which the Apostle implores Philemon to graciously receive the runaway slave Onesimus in the same manner that he would admit Paul himself. Conversely, he also asks Philemon to reckon unto *Paul’s account* any losses or debts that *Onesimus* may have incurred (Phlm. 1:17-18). This is an example of **double imputation** (2 Cor. 5:21): Party A’s sins & debts are reckoned to Party B, and Party B’s high & wealthy status is reckoned unto Party A.

In Scripture there are three principal and central imputations.

1. The imputation of Adam’s sin unto all of his descendants

(Rom. 5:12-19; 1 Cor. 15:22). Adam was the Federal Head of the Human Race—i.e., mankind’s **representative** before God. Adam’s sin is reckoned to all men. When Adam sinned, all men sinned.

2. The imputation of the believer’s sins unto Christ. Our sins are *reckoned* unto Christ—who, in His passive obedience to the will of God, became our suffering, *representative substitute* (Isa. 53; 1 Peter 2:24), bearing the full weight of sin’s consequences.

3. The imputation of Christ’s perfect righteousness unto His own (Phil. 3:8-9).

Jesus, the **second Adam** (or Representative Man) lived a life of perfection, uniquely upholding the lofty standards of God’s Law. Christ’s perfect Incarnational Righteousness is *credited* to the believer’s account. In Rom. 5:12-19, Paul draws a parallel between Adam and Christ. Even as Adam’s posterity became sinners through his sinful act, Christ’s life of active obedience is imputed unto His people, the Elect.

THOUGHTS ON JUSTIFICATION...

Indeed this is one of the greatest mysteries in the world—namely, that a righteousness that resides with a Person in heaven should justify me, a sinner on earth.—*John Bunyan*

Justification is an act of God's free grace in which he pardons all our sins and accepts us as righteous in his sight for the sake of the righteousness of Christ alone, which is credited to us and received by faith alone. — Westminster Shorter Catechism

Justification is not mere forgiveness, though it involves this, yet it is also the positive crediting of righteousness.—Bruce Ware

I hold firmly that the justification of a believer is a finished, perfect, and complete work; and that the weakest saint, though he may not know and feel it, is as completely justified as the strongest.—J.C. Ryle

When God accepts a sinner, He is, in fact, only accepting *Christ*. He looks into the sinner's eyes, and He sees His own dear Son's image there, and He takes him in.—C.H. Spurgeon

The faith by which we are justified is faith. Faith is like a channel through which the benefits of Christ flow to us. We are not justified on account of faith; we are justified through faith. It is the work of Christ, not our faith, which is the foundation of justification. Faith itself is a gift of God.—Alister McGrath

This is the rock where we stand when the dark clouds gather and the floods lick at our feet: justification is by grace alone (not mixed with our merit), through faith alone (not mixed with our works) on the basis of Christ alone (not mingling his righteousness with ours), to the glory of God alone (not ours).—John Piper